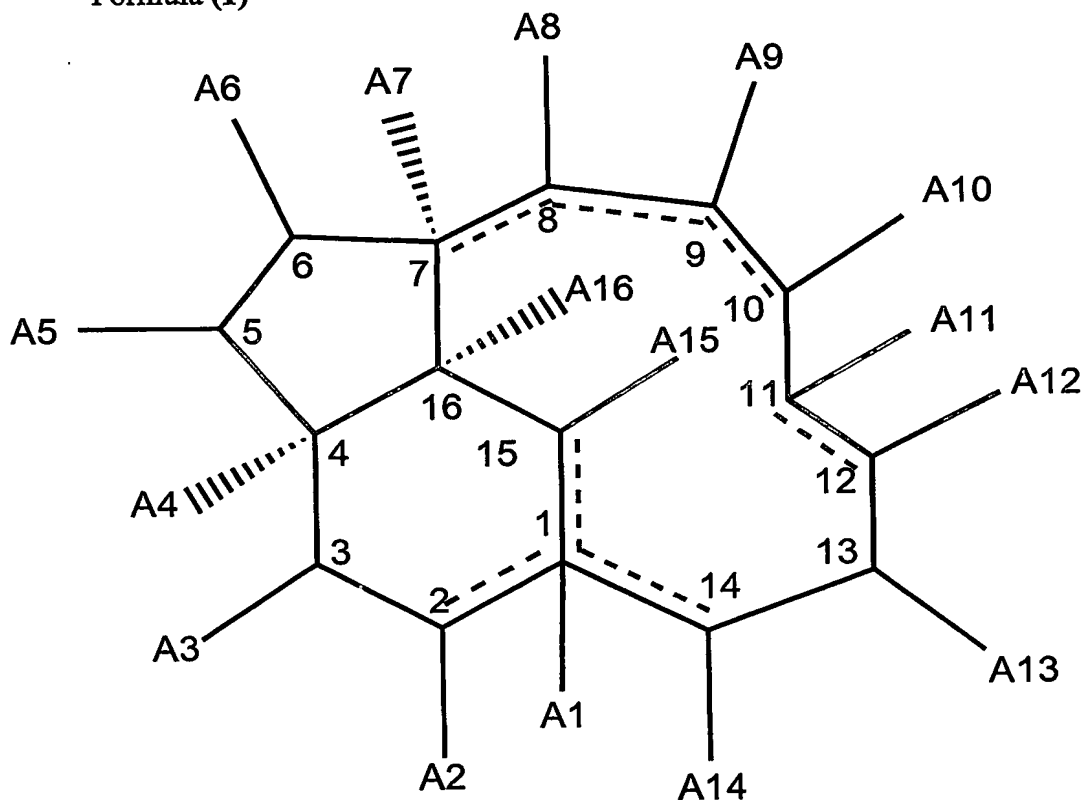


Claims:

1. A compound of the formula:

Formula (1)



5

wherein the compound comprises at least one double bond between the carbon atoms selected from the group consisting of: C1 and C14, C9 and C10, and C7 and C8; and

wherein; each ---- independently denotes a single or double bond or an epoxidised bond, and

- (i) substituents A¹ to A¹⁶ are selected, independently, from H, OH, O, SH, NH₂, lower alkyl, lower alkene, lower alkyne, lower alkoxy, lower carboxy, lower aldehyde groups, lower ketone groups, lower ester groups, lower acyloxy groups, lower alcohol groups, lower alkylthio, lower alkylamino, lower alkysulfonyl, lower alkysulfinyl and lower alkylsulfonyloxy, or

- (ii) any one or more of substituent pairs A¹ and A², A¹ and A³, A² and A³, A² and A⁴, A³ and A⁴, A³ and A⁵, A⁴ and A⁵, A⁴ and A⁶, A⁵ and A⁶, A⁵ and A⁷, A⁶ and A⁷, A⁶ and A⁸, A⁷ and A⁸, A⁷ and A⁹, A⁸ and A⁹, A⁸ and A¹⁰, A⁹ and A¹⁰, A⁹ and A¹¹, A¹⁰ and

- A¹¹, A¹⁰ and A¹², A¹¹ and A¹², A¹¹ and A¹³, A¹² and A¹³, A¹² and A¹⁴, A¹³ and A¹⁴, A¹ and A¹³, A¹ and A¹⁴, and A² and A¹⁴ form a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group, wherein any substituents, including A¹⁵ and A¹⁶, not forming a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic ring, are selected independently from H, OH, O, SH, NH₂,
5 lower alkyl, lower alkene, lower alkyne, lower alkoxy, lower carboxy, lower aldehyde groups, lower ketone groups, lower ester groups, lower acyloxy groups, lower alcohol groups, lower alkylthio, lower alkylamino, lower alkysulfonyl, lower alkysulfinyl and lower alkylsulfonyloxy; and
wherein A¹ or A⁷ may be absent; and
10 wherein any one of A², A³, A⁵, A⁶ and A⁸ to A¹⁵ may be bonded to the ring structure of Formula (1) by a single or double bond or an epoxidised bond; and
optical isomers, hydrates, solvates and/or salts or derivatives thereof;
with the proviso that the compound is not 7(8),11(12),15(17)-trinervitatriene-2 α ,3 α -diol.
15
2. The compound of claim 1 which comprises at least one double bond between C1 and C14.
3. The compound of claim 1 which comprises at least one double bond between the
20 carbon atoms selected from the group consisting of: C1 and C14, and C9 and C10.
4. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 which has at least three double bonds.
- 25 5. The compound of claim 1 which comprises double bonds at least between the carbon atoms selected from the groups consisting of;
i) C1 and C14, C9 and C10, and C8 and A⁸,
ii) C1 and C14, C15 and A¹⁵, and C8 and A⁸, or
iii) C1 and C14, C15 and A¹⁵, and C7 and C8.
30
6. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein A¹, A², A³, A⁵, A⁶, A⁷, A⁹, A¹⁰, A¹¹, A¹³, A¹⁴ and A¹⁶ are selected, independently, from H, OH, O, SH, NH₂ and OR.
- 35 7. The compound of claim 6, wherein the R in the group OR is a lower alkyl or lower acyl.

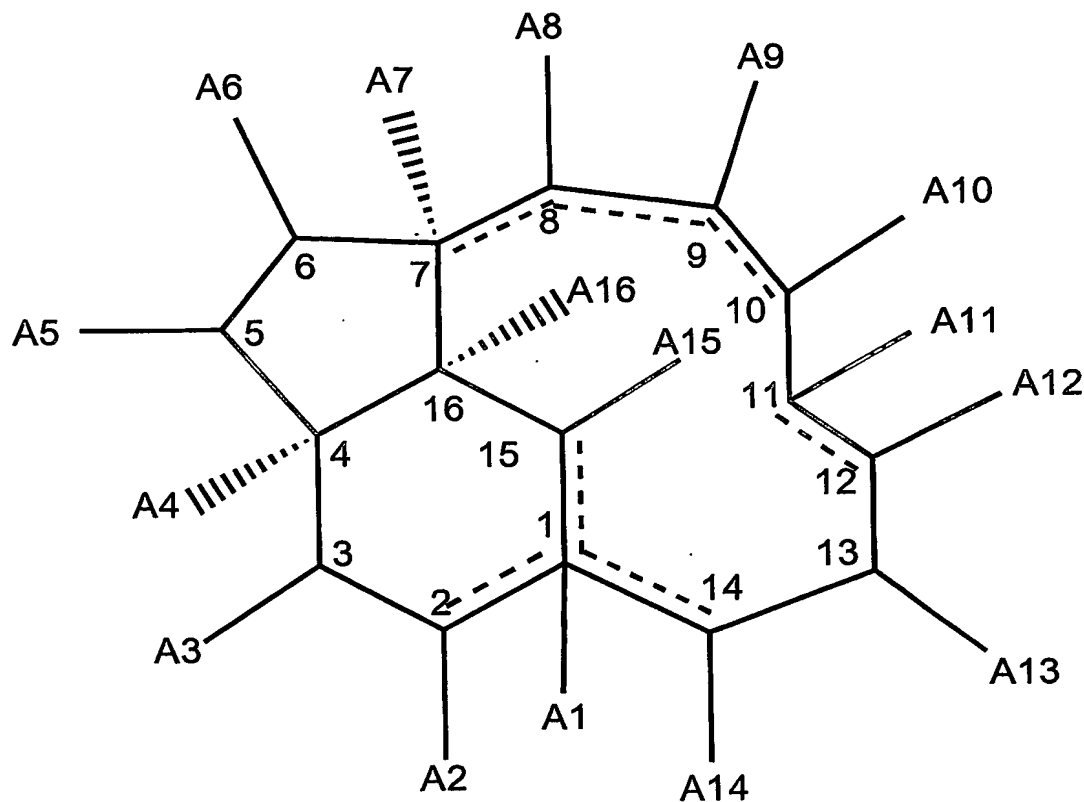
8. The compound of claim 6, wherein A^7 and/or A^{16} are H.
9. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein A^4 and A^{12} are
5 selected, independently, from lower alkyl, lower carboxy, lower aldehyde groups, lower ketone groups, lower ester groups, lower acyloxy and lower alcohol groups.
10. The compound of claim 9, wherein A^4 and A^{12} are selected, independently, from methyl, hydroxymethyl, formyl and carboxyl.
- 10 11. The compound of claim 10, wherein A^4 and A^{12} are methyl.
12. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein A^8 and A^{15} are selected from lower alkyl, lower alkene or lower alkyne.
- 15 13. The compound of claim 12, wherein A^8 and A^{15} are selected from methyl and CH_2 .
14. The compound of claim 13, wherein A^8 and A^{15} are CH_2 .
- 20 15. The compound of claim 1 wherein at least two of A^1 to A^{16} are OH or OR.
16. The compound of claim 15, wherein the R in the group OR is a lower alkyl or lower acyl.
- 25 17. The compound of claim 15, wherein at least A^2 and A^3 are OH.

30

35

18. The compound of claim 1 which comprises the formula:

Formula (1)



5 wherein the compound comprises at least one double bond between the carbon atoms selected from the group consisting of: C1 and C14, C9 and C10, and C7 and C8; and

wherein; each ---- independently denotes a single or double bond or an epoxidised bond, and

10 wherein substituents A¹ to A¹⁶ are selected, independently, from H, OH, O, SH, NH₂, lower alkyl, lower alkene, lower alkyne, lower alkoxy, lower carboxy, lower aldehyde groups, lower ketone groups, lower ester groups, lower acyloxy groups, lower alcohol groups, lower alkylthio, lower alkylamino, lower alkylsulfonyl, lower alkylsulfinyl and lower alkylsulfonyloxy, and

15 wherein A¹ or A⁷ may be absent; and

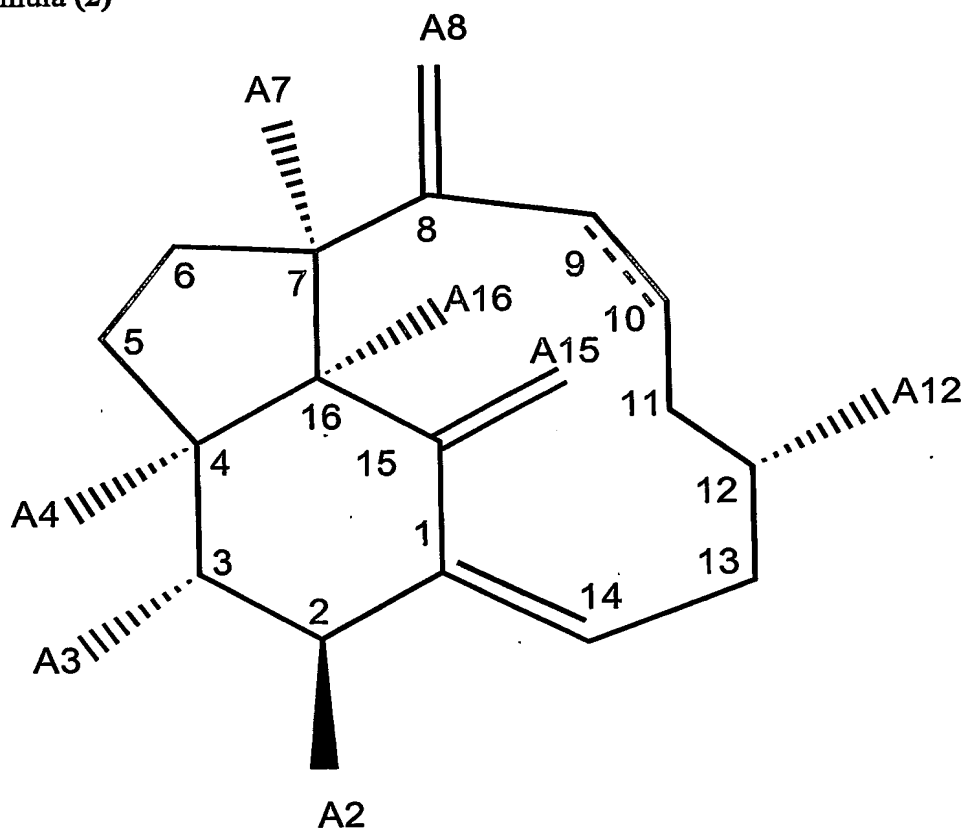
wherein any one of A², A³, A⁵, A⁶ and A⁸ to A¹⁵ may be bonded to the ring structure of Formula (1) by a single or double bond or an epoxidised bond; and optical isomers, hydrates, solvates and/or salts or derivatives thereof;

with the proviso that the compound is not 7(8),11(12),15(17)-trinervitatriene-2 α ,3 α -diol.

19. The compound of claim 1 which comprises the formula:

5

Formula (2)

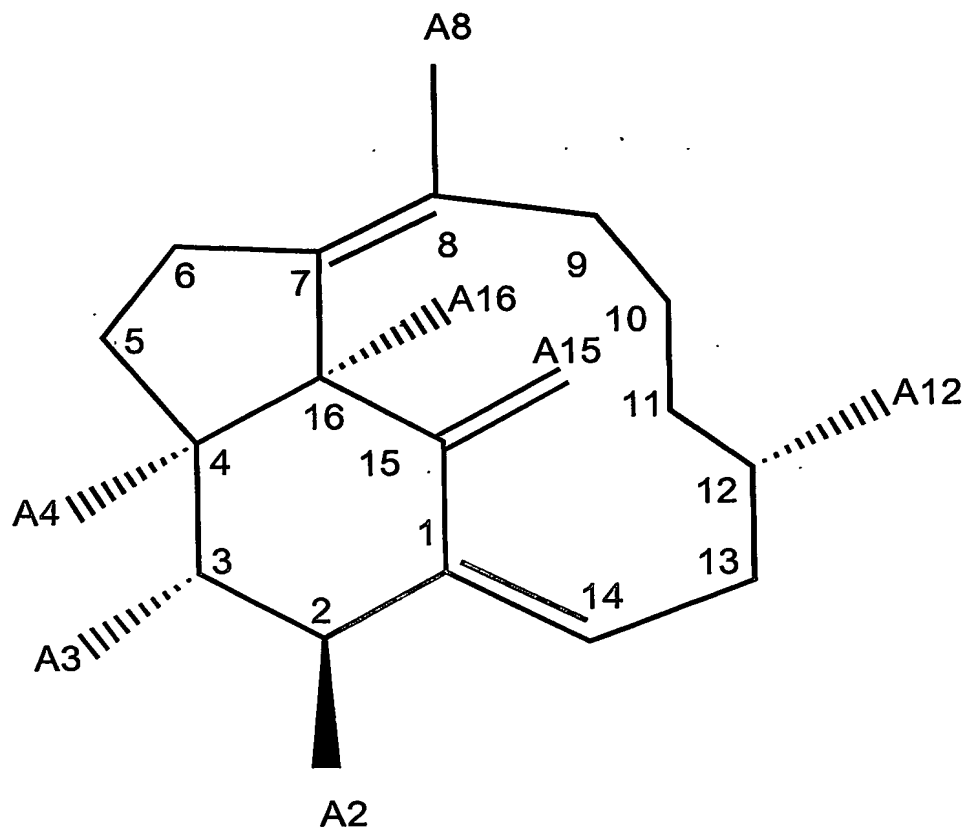


wherein; --- denotes a single or double bond; and
 wherein substituents A², A³, A⁴, A⁷, A⁸, A¹², A¹⁵ and A¹⁶ are as defined above in
 relation to Formula (1), and
 10 optical isomers, hydrates, solvates and/or salts or derivatives thereof.

20. The compound of claim 1 which comprises the formula:

Formula (3)

47



wherein substituents A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , A^8 , A^{12} , A^{15} and A^{16} are as defined above in relation to Formula (1), and

optical isomers, hydrates, solvates and/or salts or derivatives thereof.

5

21. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 20, wherein the salt is a pharmaceutical and/or veterinary acceptable salt.

22. The compound of claim 1, which is selected from the group consisting of: (9*E*)-
 10 1(14),8(19),9(10),15(17)-trinervitatetraene-2 β ,3 α -diol (**P**); 1(14),8(19),15(17)-
 trinervitatriene-2 β ,3 α -diol (**Q**); and 1(14),7(8),15(17)-trinervitatriene-2 β ,3 α -diol (**R**).

23. A pharmaceutical and/or veterinary formulation for treating a microbial
 infection or disease in a subject, said formulation comprising a compound according to
 15 any one of claims 1 to 22 in admixture with a suitable pharmaceutically/veterinary-
 acceptable excipient.

24. A composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 22 in admixture with at least one diluent.
25. A method for treating or preventing a microbial infection or disease in a subject,
5 the method comprising administering or applying to the subject an effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 22.
26. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 22 for the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing a microbial infection or disease in an
10 subject.
27. A method for disinfecting a surface or a solution, said method comprising exposing said surface or solution to an effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 22.
15
28. A kit comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 22.